



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

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Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers seize more than half a million in U.S. currency during the month of October

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers along with efforts by DPS Criminal Investigators resulted in the seizure of \$536,189 in drug and vehicle theft money during October, 2007. All of the money seized was U.S. currency.

The largest money seizure came on October 26th after Detectives from the DPS Vehicle Theft Task Force discovered a "Chop Shop" in the east Mesa/Apache Junction area. Approximately \$250,000 was seized along with several stolen items including power generators, forklifts, trailers, commercial trucks, and motorcycle engines.

"Whether it's a traffic stop on the highway or part of an ongoing criminal investigation, DPS Officers are working across the state every day to arrest drug couriers, recover stolen vehicles and track down and arrest members of the criminal syndicates that finance those operations in Arizona," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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